

2016 Robot Rumble Press Release

Over twenty FIRST robotics teams from throughout the Capital Region, other areas of New York, and Connecticut will be convening at Ballston Spa High School on Saturday, November 5th for the 3rd Annual Robot Rumble Off-Season Robotics Competition. Anyone interested in learning more about the For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology (FIRST) programs is welcome to stop by and check out this exciting event.

The action will be taking place from 8:30 am until 4:30 pm on Saturday, November 5th. The event is free and open to the public. Stop by the Ballston Spa High School, 220 Ballston Avenue in Ballston Spa, NY to see the robots in action.

FIRST Robotics Competitions combines the excitement of sport with the rigors of science and technology. Under strict rules, limited resources, and time limits, teams of 15 students or more are challenged to raise funds, design a team "brand", hone teamwork skills, and build and program robots to perform prescribed tasks against a field of competitors. It's as close to "real-world engineering" as a student can get. Volunteer professional mentors lend their time and talents to guide each team. Through the program students get to learn 21st Century skills; build and compete with a robot of their own design; learn to use sophisticated software and hardware; and compete and cooperate in alliances and tournaments.

Four area FIRST Robotics Teams from Ballston Spa, Shenedehowa, Shaker, and Colonie, organized this event. The Town of Malta/GLOBALFOUNDRIES Foundation provided a grant that allowed the FIRST STRONGHOLD competition field from last season to be brought to Ballston Spa High School for the Robot Rumble event. In addition to 19 veteran teams, there are three rookie teams participating in this event to prepare for their first robotics season which will officially launch January 7, 2017. Off-season competitions provide an opportunity for teams to have fun and to recruit new students, industry mentors and sponsors as they begin preparing for the Regional FIRST Robotics Competition in March 2017.

Ballston Spa High School is excited to be able to host this great opportunity to interest students in the STEM fields. FIRST programs are growing in New York Tech Valley as a result of the overwhelming support of our industry sponsors to engage more students in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) and develop the needed workforce to support their businesses. Sponsors include GLOBALFOUNDRIES, GE, ASML, M+W Group, KLA-Tencor, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, Time Warner, National Grid, Mattson Technology, Lam Research, Applied Materials, Turner Construction, SCREEN USA, Wonik IPS and PDF Solutions. Currently grants are available for new teams. Groups interested in forming a team can apply for grant funding by going to https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/FIRST_STEM_EQUITY.

Similar competitions for elementary and middle school aged students will take place at Ballston Spa Middle School on December 3rd and at RPI on December 10th. The New York Tech Valley 2017 FIRST Robotics Regional Competition will be held at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute East Campus Athletic Village (ECAV) on March 16th to 18th.

For additional information please email Ballston Spa CSD K-12 Science Coordinator Diane Irwin at dirwin@bscsd.org or call 518-884-7150 ext. 2317.